UNIFIED DATA PACKET FOR ENCAPSULATING DATA PACKETS HAVING DIVERSE FORMATS

Abstract of the Disclosure

Embodiments of the present invention described and shown in the specification

5   and drawings facilitate the transportation of data packets having diverse formats through a general packet switching system. Due to the diverse formats of the data packets used by various common communications protocols, it is has been difficult to produce general packet switching systems that are able to switch multiple protocols. Embodiments of the present invention provide a Unified Data Packet for encapsulating data packets having

10   diverse formats. Through encapsulation, embodiments of the present invention improve switching system efficiency by providing a single data packet format for handling by the switching system while enabling data packets in diverse formats to pass through the switch.